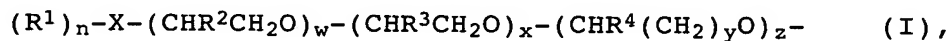


We claim:-

- 5 1. A copolymer comprising monomer units

- (i) of at least one N-vinylamide,
- 10 (ii) of at least one ester of an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, and, optionally,
- (iii) of at least one additional copolymerizable comonomer,

15 wherein the carboxylic acid ester exhibits alkoxylate residues of the general formula (I)



in which

- 20 R^1 is hydrogen or an aliphatic hydrocarbon residue with 3 to 40 carbon atoms;

- 25 R^2, R^3, R^4 are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_{1-4} -alkyl;

- w, x, z correspond, independently of one another, to a value of 0 to 100, the sum of w, x and z being greater than 0;

- 30 y corresponds to a value of 1 to 20;

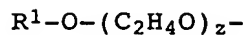
- X is N or O,

- 35 n being 1 and R^1 not being hydrogen if X is O; or n being 2 if X is N.

2. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the N-vinylamide is chosen from N-vinylpyrrolidone and N-vinylcaprolactam.

- 40 3. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.

- 45 4. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid esters exhibit ethoxylate residues of the general formula (Ia)



(Ia)

in which

- 5 R^1 is branched or linear, saturated or unsaturated
 C_{5-15} -alkyl; and
- z corresponds to a value of 1 to 100.
- 10 5. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additional
copolymerizable comonomer is chosen from (meth)acrylamide,
(meth)acrylonitrile, alkyl (meth)acrylates and alkyl vinyl
ethers.
- 15 6. A copolymer as claimed in any of the preceding claims, which
comprises
- (i) 99 to 60 weight% of monomer units (i);
- 20 (ii) 1 to 30 weight% of monomer units (ii); and
- (iii) 0 to 10 weight% of monomer units (iii).
7. A composition which includes
- 25 (a) at least one active compound for the treatment of plants;
 and
- (b) at least one copolymer as claimed in any of claims 1 to
- 30 6.
8. The use of the copolymer as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6
as adjuvant in the treatment of plants.
- 35 9. The use as claimed in claim 8 for improving the effectiveness
of an active compound for plant protection.
10. The use as claimed in claim 8 in plant cultivation, in
agriculture or in horticulture.
- 40 11. The use as claimed in claim 8 for controlling undesired plant
growth.
12. The use as claimed in claim 8 postemergence.
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13. The use as claimed in claim 8 in the spray treatment of plants.

14. The use as claimed in claim 8 as tank additive.

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